



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin and the Mayor of the City of Oak Creek were saddened deeply by the events on August 5, 2012, when six Sikh Americans were killed and five others were seriously injured at the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin in Oak Creek; and

WHEREAS, the Sikh American community should be supported in its abiding efforts to heal the faith community locally, nationwide, and worldwide, to observe the fundamental tenets of Sikhism, and to promote greater understanding of the Sikh faith as one of the major religions of the world; and

WHEREAS, the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin and the Mayor of the City of Oak Creek express their profound sympathy to the families of those killed and injured and to the entire Oak Creek, Wisconsin, community and the Sikh American community nationwide; and

WHEREAS, first responders, public safety officials, and other members of local, state, and federal law enforcement throughout the State of Wisconsin are rightly acknowledged and specially commended for their professional and timely actions that saved lives and prevented greater losses; and

WHEREAS, the tragedy at the Sikh Gurdwara and other recent hate-inspired attacks, and vandalism at mosques in venues throughout our nation are occurring at a time of heightened verbal harassment, intimidation, bias, bullying, discrimination, and physical violence visited upon Sikhs, Muslims, South Asian Americans, Arab Americans, and other communities; and

WHEREAS, in the Eastern District of Wisconsin and in every federal district of our nation, the citizenry and its leadership promote and act on the fundamental principles of non-violence, inclusion, religious freedom, diversity, trust, and peace and recognize that these principles are critically important to the life, the livelihood, and the vitality of all of our communities; and

WHEREAS, the foundational, core values of the people of the Eastern District of Wisconsin include commitments to justice, equality, understanding, education, and respect for people of all backgrounds and faiths, and we strive continually for communities that fight discrimination and unequal treatment based on race, national origin, color, religious affiliation, disability, sexual orientation and identity, and familial status; and

WHEREAS, the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin and the Mayor of the City of Oak Creek join all of the citizens of the State of Wisconsin and of the United States of America in rejecting xenophobia, racism, anti-religious rhetoric, hate speech, and violence; and


WHEREAS, the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin and the Mayor of the City of Oak Creek regard the hate-inspired violence that occurred on August 5, 2012, as an attack not only on the members of the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin but also as an attack on all Americans who are committed to the fundamental principles of our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution on which our nation was founded and based upon which we live, grow, and prosper in unity.

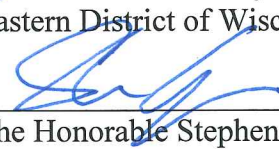
NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT PROCLAIMED that we, the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin and the Mayor of the City of Oak Creek, assembled together and with others on this second day of August 2013, commit to the following:

- Remember and honor those we have lost—namely, Satwant Singh Kaleka, Paramjit Kaur, Suveg Singh Khattrra, Prakash Singh, Ranjit Singh, and Sita Singh.
- Support and honor those who were injured: Baba Punjab Singh, Santokh Singh, Amarjit Kaur, Jasbir Kaur Dulai, Paramjit Kaur, and Lieutenant Brian Murphy.
- Recognize and commend the abiding work and sacrifices of all law enforcement officers—federal, state, local, and Tribal—who make our communities safe and secure.
- Appreciate and support the special contributions of our educators, our medical care providers, our social service providers, and our business leaders who assist and support our residents not only in events of crisis but in all times, circumstances, and settings.
- Work actively and productively with individuals and groups throughout our community to promote education, understanding, appreciation, and communication about the importance and value of diversity in faiths, cultures, ethnicities, origins, orientations, abilities, and identities.
- Promote inclusive and welcoming environments for all of the residents of our communities and encourage the growth and the development of our populations in all aspects of their lives.
- Continue to denounce bigotry, prejudice, bias, and discrimination in all public and political discourse and to replace it with the language—and the actions—of equality, fairness, and justice.
- Invoke the processes, the capacities, and the trappings of all government offices—federal, state, local, and Tribal—to educate community members on ways of addressing hate, including methods for prevent future crimes prompted by it—regardless of its target, focus, or goal.
- Pursue associations with the Sikh community locally and nationwide—along with its partners in all faiths—to achieve equality and justice for all Americans and all future generations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this resolution are provided to the families of those lost and injured in the violence of August 5, 2012, the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin, the Sikh Religious Society of Wisconsin, local and national organizations representing the Sikh Community and other communities—including the Sikh Coalition, the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF), the South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT), the South Asian American Policy and Research Institute (SAAPRI), and United Sikhs—the City of Oak Creek, Wisconsin, and the Police Department of the City of Oak Creek, Wisconsin.


The Honorable James L. Santelle
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Wisconsin


The Honorable Stephen Scaffidi
Mayor
City of Oak Creek

Witnessed on this second day of August, 2013, by: 
United States Department of Justice, Community Relations Service.